

east Asia (Roberts 1991), being found from south China, through Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and across the Himalayas, but is on the western extremity of its range in Pakistan.

Roberts (1992) states that the species is extremely rare in Pakistan, citing just five records, two of which come from the Margalla Hills in winter and spring. We located an individual in dense woodland at c. 650 m, foraging in dense undergrowth close to the ground.

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16. BREEDING OF SOUTHERN JUNGLE MYNA *ACRIDOTHERES FUSCUS MAHRATTENSIS* (SYKES) AT KARANJA

On 20th April 1996, a group of southern jungle mynas *Acridotheres fuscus mahrattensis* was seen at Karanja near Uran, Raigad dist., Maharashtra, on and around a huge 800 year old baobab tree *Adansonia digitata*. By the first week of May, many of them began nesting in holes at different heights, ranging from 5-10 m in the same tree. In June, when we visited the site, males (probably) were bringing food to the females and to the chicks sitting inside the nests. We did not want to disturb the birds by probing their nests, but noticed a long ribbon of audio cassette tape hanging from one of the holes, presumably used inside the nest. Sálím Ali and Humayun Abdulali (1941) reported them using onion peel, snake-slough or tissue paper, may be tapes were not available those days! In the 3rd week of September all the holes except one were appropriated by nesting roseringed parakeets. In one hole, a Myna was still feeding the inmates. On 5th October, when we visited the place, jungle mynas were quite absent and there was an overabundance of common mynas. On 29th March 1997, jungle mynas (10-12) were examining the

holes in the same baobab tree and were singing.

Sálím Ali and Humayun Abdulali (1941) in their book "The Birds of Bombay and Salsette" term the status and distribution of this myna as curious and inexplicable. The jungle myna has a patchy distribution, even though it is as common as the common myna at Kihim and Thane. Except for one or two stray records they are not sighted in Mumbai. Sálím Ali (1935) reported a similar peculiarity in the local and patchy distribution of the jungle myna in Kerala. Nayan Khanolkar and Adesh Shivkar (pers. comm.) reported that jungle mynas were common at Dombivli, Thane dist. from Aug-Jan and only occasionally seen during the breeding period. They seem to be local migrants and at Karanja they come only to breed, and leave thereafter.

April 10, 1997 SARASWATHY UNNITHAN
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